



United States Department of Agriculture

**Forest Service**

Shawnee National Forest

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# News Release

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## ENJOY FISHING FUN AND FREE CAMPING ON THE SHAWNEE NATIONAL FOREST IN JUNE

**HARRISBURG, III.** (May 19, 2014) – With warmer weather abounding, and summer soon around the corner, the Shawnee National Forest (Forest) offers a multitude of great opportunities to connect with the natural world. Whether it is a day spent picnicking, fishing and swimming at Pounds Hollow Recreation Area, camping at Camp Cadiz or enjoying a day of hiking at Little Grand Canyon, Rim Rock or one of Shawnee's many other trails, there is truly something for every outdoor enthusiast on the Forest.

For the young fishing enthusiasts, the Shawnee National Forest is hosting its annual Kid's Fishing Derby on Saturday, June 7<sup>th</sup> with check in beginning at 7:30 am. To better serve the region, two locations will be offered for 2014: Oakwood Bottoms Interpretive Site and Lake Glendale Recreation Area.

This free event is open to kids ages 5 through 15 years with an accompanying adult. No fishing license is needed; however, a pole and tackle are required to fish. A free lunch for attendees will also be offered beginning at 11:30 am. Please note that the event will be held rain or shine.

Pre-registration is required. To do so, please call the Shawnee National Forest for your preferred location.

Oakwood Bottoms Interpretive Site; Grand Tower, IL  
Mississippi Bluffs Ranger Station – 618-833-8576

Lake Glendale Recreation Area; Golconda, IL  
Hidden Springs Ranger Station – 618-658-2111

Along with the two fishing derbies offered in early June on the Forest, June 14<sup>th</sup> marks Get Outdoors Day nationally. In honor of the celebration, the Shawnee is encouraging visitation to the Nation's public lands by offering free camping for the weekend. Fees will be waived at non-reserved campsites on Friday, June 13<sup>th</sup>, 2014 and Saturday, June 14<sup>th</sup>, 2014. The Shawnee National Forest

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campgrounds included in the fee waiver are as follows: Garden of the Gods, Pounds Hollow, Camp Cadiz, Pine Hills, and Johnson Creek. Please note that concessionaire operated campgrounds are not included in the fee waiver.

Administered by the USDA Forest Service, the Shawnee National Forest is one of 155 national forests nationwide. As the only national forest in Illinois, the Shawnee offers numerous avenues for connecting with the natural world through its 280,000 acres of varied landscape. Whether your interests lie more in outdoor recreational activities, such as hiking or camping, or include learning about the unique natural and cultural heritage of southern Illinois, the fields, forests and streams of the Shawnee welcome you. To discover more about the Shawnee National Forest, visit <http://www.fs.usda.gov/shawnee> and follow us on Twitter at: <http://twitter.com/shawneenf>.

The U.S. Forest Service is an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, a mission of sustaining the health, diversity and productivity of the nation's forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations. The Forest Service's Eastern Region includes twenty states in the Midwest and East, stretching from Maine, to Maryland, to Missouri, to Minnesota. There are 17 national forests and one national tallgrass prairie in the Eastern Region. For more information, visit [www.fs.usda.gov/R9](http://www.fs.usda.gov/R9).

The U.S. Forest Service manages 193 million acres of public land, provides assistance to state and private landowners, and maintains the largest forestry research organization in the world. Public lands the Forest Service manages contribute more than \$13 billion to the economy each year through visitor spending alone. Those same lands provide 20 percent of the nation's clean water supply, a value estimated at \$7.2 billion per year. The agency has either a direct or indirect role in stewardship of about 80 percent of the 850 million forested acres within the U.S., of which 100 million acres are urban forests where most Americans live. For more information, visit [www.fs.usda.gov/](http://www.fs.usda.gov/).

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